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June 27.

REV. J. H. TODD, D. D., Vice-President, in the Chair.

H. J. Monck Mason, Esq., LL.D., read an account of a visit which he had paid to the Tomb of the Volumnii at Perugia.

Mr. Mason then presented a gold fibula found in Ireland, as a contribution to the Museum of Antiquities, now in process of formation by the Academy.

The thanks of the Academy were voted to Mr. Mason for the donation.

A paper was read by Dr. Macartney "on the minute Structure of the Brain in the Chimpanzee and the human Idiot, compared with that of the perfect Brain of Man, with some reflections on the Cerebral Functions."

The author commenced by stating, that he had discovered the brain of all animals to be composed of a plexiform arrangement of white (or, as he termed them, *sentient*) filaments, the most delicate of which he found to pervade all the coloured substances of the brain. He attributed the higher sensorial powers of the cerebral organ to the disposition and intercommunication of these filaments, more especially where they exist in the coloured substances. The mode he employs for rendering the finer filaments evident is to moisten the different substances during the dissection with a solution of alum in water, which, causing a slight coagulation, makes the filaments opaque and visible. The author accounted for the fact that the existence of the most delicate plexuses had hitherto escaped observation, from the circumstance that other anatomists had not used any fluid to coagulate them. He considers the shape and magnitude of the different parts of the brain as merely subservient to the proper arrangement and number of the plexuses of the sentient substance.